



www.SaveTheRiver-SavetheHills.org

Winter Newsletter

A little Late...

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc., is dedicated to preserving the health of the Niantic River Estuary, its Watershed and the natural beauty of the Oswegatchie Hills.

Wine, Cheese, Song Holiday Party Fundraiser another Success... Thank YOU!!

Many thanks to all of the supporters and friends of Save the River-Save the Hills for making our 6th annual winter fundraiser *Wine, Cheese and Song Holiday Party* at Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant on December 8, 2011 a great event.

The room decorated in holiday style, the music of the *Denise and Tony Band* and the laughter and conversation of approximately 100 people put everyone in a festive mood. The exceptional food of *Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant* and the delicious desserts baked by our members from recipes offered in our Keepsake Book, wowed the diners.

New this year, a live auction with auctioneer Deb Moshier-Dunn brought a wave of excitement and generous bidding. Matt LeBeau representing Senator Richard Blumenthal's office, Dan Steward, Paul Formica, Nancy Bulkeley (Dominion Community Affairs Representative), Ed Jutila and his legislative aide, Jason Knight, were all on hand to support us.

Paul Formica addressed the latest Court decision on the Oswegatchie Hills proposed development and with a small group of children standing with him, said, "This is the reason we are all here tonight, for the future of our children and grandchildren".

All food donations collected at the event were contributed to the "Food Float" at the East Lyme Light parade.

Thank you to everyone who attended, bid and/or donated to our auctions or volunteered to help us. Without you, we wouldn't be Saving the River and the Hills!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR EVENTS!!!

Upcoming Events!

"LIKE" our Facebook page to stay "between Newsletters" up-to-the-minute on our events...

- ☺ Clean-up Latimer Brook (headwaters to the Niantic River behind Trivtown) - Watch our Facebook page for the upcoming date in April.
- ☺ **Native Plant Sale** at Perennial Harmony, Rt 1, Waterford - **April 22nd which is Earth Day** - See flyer insert for details!
- ☺ Our 8th Annual Kayak Regatta - August 18, 2012 !!!



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Paul "Flanders Fish" Formica with STR-STH kids at Wine, Cheese & Song Holiday Party



We will soon be back out there... Get your kayaks ready!

A Note from the President and Founder of STR-STH:

1. Landmark's 4th Appeal has been remanded (sent back) to the E. Lyme Zoning Board by the judge. He instructed the Town to make extensive changes to the way they deal with affordable housing applications (not just Oswegatchie Hills). **This could be a major blow to our efforts to save the Hills.** Please stay tuned, or better yet, follow the zoning commissions work on this matter by calling the town hall.
2. We are working on the Pumpout Boat to get ready for the 2012 season. We got approval from the DEEP which covers 75% of the cost. We are awaiting to hear from the towns for the remaining 25%.
3. We are starting work on repairs on the Water Quality skiff. We will meet soon with the Dept of Public Health on expanding data gathering on non-point source pollution of the River. We are advocating that the towns of E.L. and Waterford institute septic tank pumping regulations which we feel is the major source of pollution coming from the watershed.
4. I have been attending meetings of the Niantic River Nitrogen Workgroup. Anyone interested in this, please contact me.
5. We are still in need of a new Board Member to fill the position of legislative liaison. This person would keep us informed of federal and state programs that can help or fund our efforts. If you want to nominate/suggest someone, please do so by calling Fred at 860-287-2654 (cell).

Also, if you would like to help getting our boats back in the water (after the ice clears!), please give me a call. I can definitely use the help this year!

Yours in Saving the River and the Hills, Fred Grimsey

A Note from our friends at Three Belles Marina in Niantic:

We are pleased to announce our celebration of National Marina Day to be held in conjunction with an Open House on June 9, 2012. NMD's purpose is to promote the family friendly role marinas play in the community and the benefits of a marina lifestyle. It's focus is on safety, education, and environmental sustainability while providing water access.

We have many activities and visitors scheduled. US Coast Guard Auxiliary will be performing courtesy vessel safety checks and the DEEP will present their Boat Safe/Boat Smart program. Save the River- Save the Hills will conduct a membership drive and inform us of the efforts being made to protect the Niantic River and Oswegatchie Hills. Regional Hobie Kayak representatives will be doing demos as well. Once again, we are open to any ideas or suggested activities for the day. Perhaps we could do a pot luck cook-out to kick off the season and get to know one another better. So mark your calendars and invite your friends!

Best Wishes, **Lee Deer** - General Manager

Water Quality Action Alert!!—Jordan Brook

A Kobyluck gravel mine has been proposed to be near enough to Jordan Brook that a Waterford Environmental Hearing has been held and will be continued. Jordan Brook runs through where they want to mine. The Brook is home to native trout habitat that will be affected by the blasting, crushing and the toxic (to the fish) runoff are 'byproducts' of the operation. Educate yourself on this issue and join us in going to the meetings to show your support for the preservation of an important waterway that flows directly into the Long Island Sound.

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills!

The Judge has decided that the 3rd Appeal (for approximately 850 units) can stand and remanded the developer's proposal back to the Zoning Board with orders to incorporate the developer's proposed zoning changes. We are uncertain as to what that means, but we know it was not good news. We will keep you up-to-date as the Town of EL lets us know any more details.

Watershed Education Program

Our Education Program is once again working with East Lyme High School's AP Environmental class to clean up Latimer's Brook (the headwaters of the Niantic River) where it runs behind Tri-town Plaza. The Enviroscope (shown right) is being borrowed by the Children's Museum for this month. We are also teaching the children at the Children's Tree Montessori School with our Enviroscope this Spring. If you would like to be involved in an education project or have an idea of a school that might want to use it, please call Deb at 860-444-9247.



Water Quality Testing Program

We finished bacteria testing last fall working with Ledge Light Health District. The Study Report of our data on bacteria in the Niantic River after a rain event "in excess of 2 inches of rainfall" is now in the hands of the DEEP and Niantic River Watershed Action Commission (NRWAC). When Fred discussed the very high readings with the DEEP, he was told that we would need a daily monitoring process to have "anything done". Our research has unveiled that each town, under "Town Rule", has the authority over use of a waterway within its jurisdiction. We will continue to monitor the River and let the town's of Waterford and East Lyme know of our findings.

Our Enviroscope Model—if you know of a teacher or class who would like to borrow it or have us go to their school to teach with it, please let us know.

There is also ongoing work being done by the Nitrogen workgroup of NRWAC.

Pumpout Boat Program

We are gearing up for our 10th season of the Pumpout Program starting Memorial Day Weekend! **If you would like to help get our boats in the water this Spring, please contact Fred at 442-8349.**

Thank you to our Silent Auction Donors and Dessert Table donators!!

Many thanks to our silent auction donors for Wine, Cheese & Song Holiday! Please support these area businesses and let them know that you appreciate their participation in Saving the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills:

Deborah Canavan, Jaxon Vibber, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre, The Eastern CT Ballet, Stay and Play of Old Saybrook, Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra, Lisa Mooers, Deborah Moshier-Dunn, Michael Dunn, Garde Arts Center, Divine Wine—Ken Turcotte, Bon Vivant Studio, The Childrens Museum of SECT, Pequot Golf Club, Senator Andrea Stillman, Rep. Betsy Ritter, Rep. Ed Jutila, East Lyme Rent-a-Space, Cross Road Rent-a-Space, East Lyme Illianos, Fred Grimsey, Anne C, Elaine Johnson –Personal Touch Organizing, Mia Bingham—Every Body Hoops, Rachel Baer—Yoga Keeps Me Fit, Karen Doherty—Arbonne, Pat Hanney, ABC Gymnastics, "That Look Salon", The Shack, Angie's Pizza, Scott Farms, Ed Aledia—Caruso Music, Smith's Acres, Book Barn, Kathy Jablkowski, Norwich Ice Rink, Paperback Café, Ivy's Simply Homemade.

The Dessert Table at our event was filled with goodies from recipes from our Keepsake Book by: Cordette Grimsey, Rose LaFleur, Richard Oliver, Mark Sperry, Suzanne Thompson, Joan Walworth, and Cindy Webster. Thank you all!!

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To donate or become a member, clip and mail the form below, or call Eileen O'Pasek @ 860-439-1687

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☺ Join Our Board—we are looking for new ideas... come bring yours to STR-STH!
Help with the Education Program — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscope
Administration - helping with mailings, etc.
River Safety Committee

Join us in anyway you feel comfortable and take action to Save the River and the Hills!

Membership News

Our Members are Amazing! Thank you for the wonderful and generous support of the December 8th, 2011 Wine, Cheese and Song Fundraiser. It was fantastic seeing all of you having such a great time. Your presence was also a tribute to your determination and dedication to preserve the Niantic River and Oswegatchie Hills. Please encourage others to join us as members, we know there is strength in numbers! Thank you again for your continued support.

We have started a new calendar year for our donation cycle. Please renew your membership soon!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership and Fundraising Chair

Membership & Other Contributions:

___ New ___ Renewal

___ Basic Family \$20

___ River Keeper \$50

___ River Saver \$100

___ River Neptune \$250

___ River Neptune \$500

___ River Champion \$1000

All members receive our quarterly newsletters and one STR-STH membership sticker

Note: first \$20.00 of any membership category goes to the general fund and is used as required for all programs.

Additional amounts may be directed as below:

___ Water Quality (testing, education, pumpout programs)

___ Water Safety ___ Legal Defense Fund ___ General Fund

Please make checks payable to:

STR-STH, Inc.

and mail to

Save the River-Save the Hills

P.O. Box 505

Waterford, CT 06385

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

(email will be used for Action Alerts for STR-STH issues only)

Referred by: